

Remarks:

Claims 2 and 3 are cancelled, claims 1 and 4-5 are amended, and claims 6-7 are new.

All pending claims are now in allowable form and a Notice of Allowance is solicited.

If the Office is not fully persuaded as to the merits of Applicant's position, or if an Examiner's Amendment would place the pending claims in condition for allowance, a telephone call to the undersigned at (727) 507-8558 is requested.

Very respectfully,

SMITH & HOPEN

By: 

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Dated: October 11, 2004

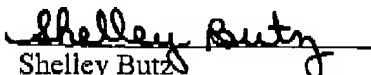
pc: Dr. Dirk L. Basting

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

(37 C.F.R. 1.8(a))

I HEREBY CERTIFY that this Preliminary Amendment, including Amendments to the Claims, and Remarks, is being transmitted by facsimile to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Technology Center 2600, (703) 872-9314 on October 11, 2004.

Dated: October 11, 2004


Shelley Butz

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